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CAN TRUDEAU HANDLE THE TRUMP?
First meeting, Monday metroNEWS

Muslim ban struck down — Trump vows to take fight to supreme court

metro NEWS

INTERESTED?

This farmhouse could be yours for $1,100 per month — and a 25-year commitment to organic farming metroNEWS

Shopify defends Breitbart deal

ONLINE

Far-right site has a right to platform, CEO says on blog

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Shopify CEO Tobi Lütke has published an online essay pushing back against demands that the company stop doing business with right-wing news site Breitbart.

The essay, published on Medium, is titled "In Support of Free Speech" and expands on the original explanation Shopify provided.

Lütke mentions that he has received over 10,000 emails, tweets and messages asking the company to discontinue Breitbart's use of Shopify's platform. He writes that employees inside the company are receiving the same pressures. "Shopify is an unlikely defender of Breitbart's right to sell products," admits Lütke. "I'm a liberally minded immigrant, leading a predominantly liberal workforce, hailing from predominantly liberal cities and countries."

Former Breitbart CEO Steve Bannon is now President Donald Trump's chief strategist. Merchandise on offer in the store includes T-shirts emblazoned with "Breitbart Border Patrol," "Border Wall Construction Co." and the slogan "Get in line" written on a silhouette of the U.S. map.

Lütke said he doesn't personally like Breitbart but he compares online shopping to democracy — casting votes via purchases.

The company does not make political donations, but COO Harley Finkelstein has signed a letter condemning the Trump administration's travel ban.

The creators of a petition on SumOfUs.org — which has reached 23,283 signatures — calls the right-wing news site "dangerous" and calls on Shopify to end their business relationship.

metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Twitter in an uproar amid rumours that Sarah Palin may become ambassador to Canada. **World**

Sewer-surveillance state

ANIMALS

Councillor calls on city to install cameras to monitor rats

Adam Kveton
For Metro | Ottawa

Sure, the census tells us how many people live in Ottawa — but what about the rats?

Some councillors want to know. And one has a high-tech suggestion for finding out: video surveillance of sewers.

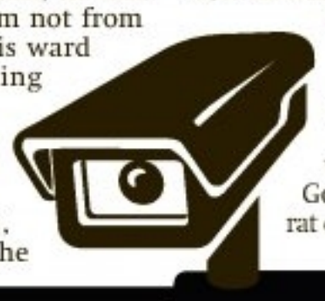
At Wednesday's council meeting, councillors Mathieu Fleury and Allan Hubley asked staff what it's doing to address the concerns Fleury has received about rats in parks and streets.

"Historically, the complaints we'd get about rats were usually on abandoned properties or where there are some landlords," Fleury said. "Most recently, that's changed."

The city has bylaws protecting private property from pests like rats, Fleury said, but "at this point I believe the city does not have a co-ordinated approach" for public spaces.

> **At this point I believe the city does not have a co-ordinated approach.** Mathieu Fleury

For Hubley's part, he said his concerns stem not from complaints in his ward but from speaking with workers on a sewer project in 2011. He said the workers noticed more rats, and guess that the increase was related to reduced use of pesticides.



Hubley said he'd expressed his concerns about the rat population to city staff at that time. Now he wants the city to start tracking the population.

His suggestion: cameras in sewers.

Eric Perez, service manager with Go Pest Control, said rat calls have remained fairly stable. But Todd Babbin, owner of Nature's Way Property Services, said he believes the rat population is increasing, and that they have spread out to the suburban edges of the city.

Warmer temperatures, increased development, sewer and LRT work, and a lack of predators — all of these could be causes, Babbin said.

Fleury also suggested the city consider employing Senestech, a company whose rat bait causes infertility rather than death.

Fleury said he hopes to get options back from staff in early March to implement solutions this spring.

GRAPHIC: ANDRES PLANA

BUREAUCRACY

Burst the 'Ottawa bubble,' says Raitt

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Conservative leadership candidate Lisa Raitt is pledging to move government staff out of the "Ottawa Bubble."

In a fundraising email to her supporters, she said she planned to move bureaucrats out of Ottawa. Raitt said technology could be used to decentralize the civil service, a move that she believes would improve decision-making.

"Ottawa sometimes make bad decisions because they are in a space where they are not necessarily feeling the pain of the economy," she said.

Spreading civil servants out would also help spread the wealth of good-paying jobs across the country, she said.

"We have small communities all across the country that need to have good jobs. People with these jobs, federal civil servant jobs, are good people who give to the United Way, they coach hockey, they coach basketball. We have lost that in so many parts of that country, so why not burst that bubble."

Raitt is among 14 candidates in the leadership race, which is scheduled to end on May 27.

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Psychic powers for truckers

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

Pilot project to give drivers heads-up on traffic lights

Adam Kveton
For Metro | Ottawa

Next fall, some truckers in Ottawa will have advanced warning of traffic-light changes on Hunt Club Road. ADAM KVETON/FOR METRO

Remember the last time you had to slam on the brakes at a succession of frustratingly ill-timed red lights?

Or hit the gas lest that green light in the distance turn yellow — and disrupt your flow — before you got to the intersection?

It would have helped to be able to see a few seconds into the future, wouldn't it?

That's just what the city's traffic department will give a select few truckers as part of a connected-vehicle pilot project funded by the provincial and federal governments.

The project will test whether giving truckers a heads-up on upcoming traffic-light changes might help them save fuel, thereby reducing emissions, said Greg Kent, manager of traffic management for the city.

"This is an opportunity to see how our system performs in what is coming up in the future of transportation," Kent said.

While technology such as this can act as a stepping-stone towards autonomous vehicles, Kent said, the focus right now is on connecting traffic infrastructure to human drivers.

For the project, the city plans to give one or more transportation companies access to equipment for five vehicles. The connected intersections will be along Hunt Club Road between Merivale Road and Uplands Drive.

The project has $225,000 in funding — $150,000 from Transport Canada, the rest from the province.

Outfitted trucks are expected to be on the road in the fall, with Carleton University's civil engineering school providing an assessment of the data in the new year.

REAL ESTATE

Live the urban-farmer dream for $1,100 a month

Had enough of the hustle and bustle of urban life?

Ever fancied quitting your nine-to-five and living on your own farm?

Well, you don't have to look very far. In fact, you don't even have to leave the city.

An organic farm at 230 Davidson's Side Road, between Kanata and Crystal Bay, came onto the market Wednesday.

The NCC-owned property has about 45 hectares of farmland and a red-brick farmhouse built in the 1920s. And the rent — $1,100 a month — may send steam shooting out your ears. After all, how many of us pay that much for a four-bedroom, two-bath house?

Before you ask — no, you can't just rent the house and leave the farming to somebody else, said Bill Leonard, the NCC's director of real estate.

The NCC has 92 farms that it leases out, with one to three generally put on the market each year, said Leonard.

Given that rent is pegged to average farmland rates, even though property is located in the city, Leonard said, it represents a pretty unique opportunity.

But it's not available to just anybody.

With no bidding process, the NCC will choose from among prospective tenants based on an evaluation of business plans and long-term sustainability.

In general, he said, "(Our tenants) come from four categories: you've got your really business-minded people who are seeing this as an income ... you see the young families who potentially come from an agricultural education ... and they are trying their hand at it the first time.

"You see some families (where) their parents or their grandparents had a farm, and either they don't have one or it wasn't turned over when they needed. And the fourth one we are seeing is coming from some of the incubators like Just Food. They are learning how to farm there and then they are graduating to a full farm themselves."

Interested parties must demonstrate they're in it for the long haul — 25 years to be exact.

On the upside, there are nearly a million potential customers in the immediate vicinity, ready to eat your produce.

ADAM KVETON/FOR METRO

TRANSIT

Presto hit by IT glitch

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

OC Transpo is working to repair an IT problem that has left it unable to collect $700 in fares every day.

When the commission updated routes in late December, it caused problems for the onboard computers on buses that interact with the Presto machines.

Andre Brisebois, a spokesperson for the agency, said there were small problems with the new routes that had not been covered in a software update.

"There were a small number of routes and stops in particular locations across the city that needed to be worked on," he said. "We're now testing the new database and aiming to push it wirelessly to all the computers on all the buses."

That problem confused Presto readers, which declined to take fares, because they believed in some cases that the bus was not yet in service.

"The Presto machine is working fine and it doesn't realize it's in service on a particular route," he said. "It's saying 'We are not on a bus route yet, so let's not collect a fare.'"

Brisebois said they hope to have the update out to buses soon and that should resolve the problem.

He said it's only affecting a small number of fares right now, but they do want to address it soon because it has cost the service about $20,000 in missed fare revenue so far.

"We have an estimate it may affect about 0.2 per cent of all fares."

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Refugees brave cold to enter Canada

IMMIGRATION

Farmers welcome migrants from U.S. with meal

People have been walking across the United States border to claim refugee status for years, but a Winnipeg immigration lawyer says he's not used to seeing them cross over in the bitter cold.

When they arrive, says Bashir Khan, they are often thirsty and hungry. For some, the first Canadian they meet is a farmer who welcomes them inside and offers a meal.

"They'll cook up 12 eggs and let a poor, hungry refugee claimant wolf it all down," says Khan. It's the migrant who asks to speak with border officials or police, he adds. "The refugee claimant is the one begging them to call, not the other way around."

11,000

Refugee claimants processed at designated ports last year, the Canada Border Services Agency says.

Khan has 17 clients who have braved the weather in recent months to cross into Manitoba as an "irregular arrival." RCMP have said that last weekend 22 people walked from North Dakota into Emerson-Franklin. The majority were put up in a community hall and fed by volunteers.

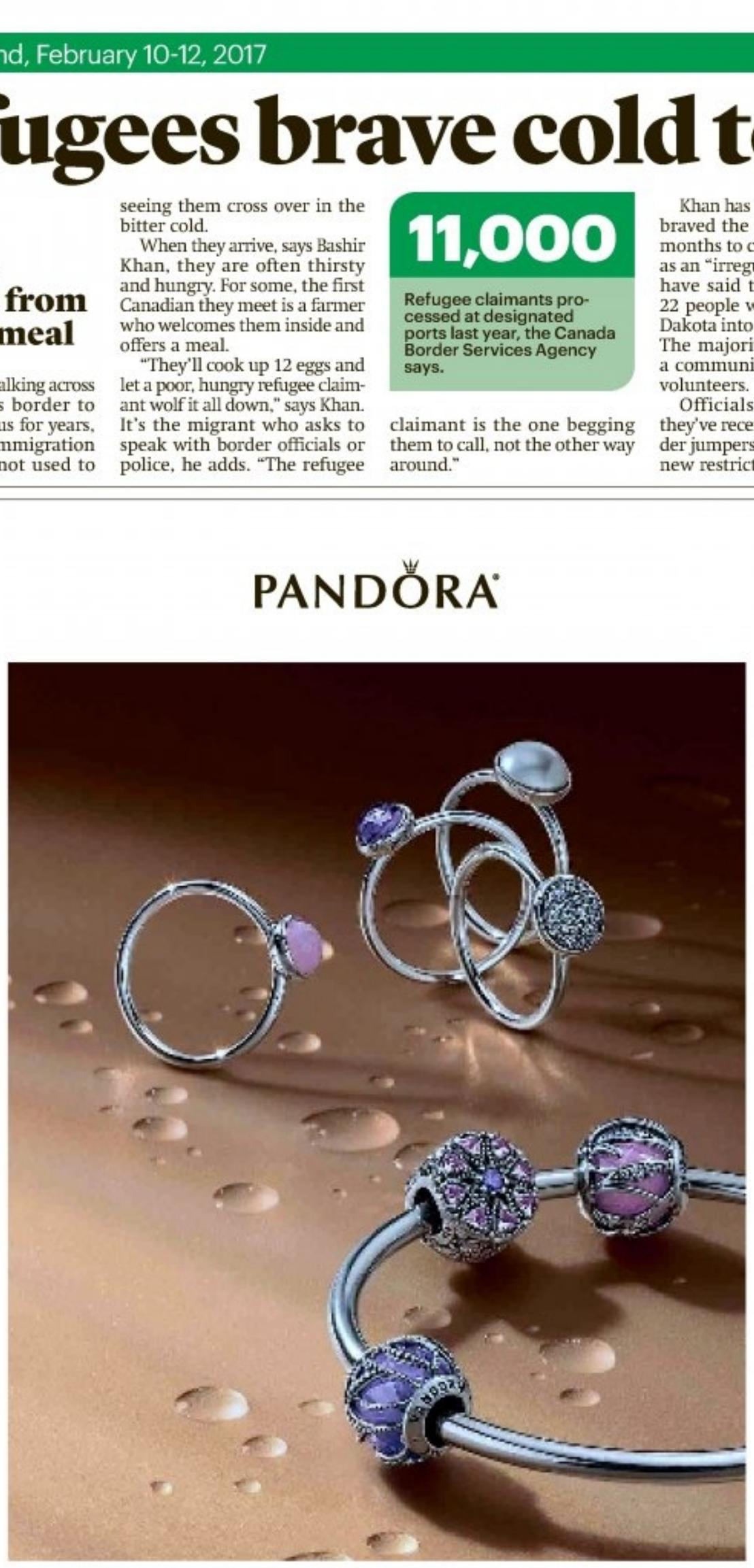
Officials in Emerson say they've recently seen more border jumpers following planned new restrictions in the United States on refugees.

The Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement requires people to apply for asylum in the first country they arrive. If they have already applied as a refugee in the U.S. before showing up at a border port in Canada, and have no blood relatives here, they are turned away. But if a person crosses into Canada somewhere else and then applies as a refugee, the case is heard in the Canadian system.

The Canada Border Services Agency says 11,000 refugee claimants were processed at designated ports last year. Figures released this week show more than 2,000 claimants entered "irregularly," with growing numbers in Manitoba, Quebec, British Columbia and Yukon. Khan says he has only ever had clients walk across the border into Manitoba in warmer months.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PANDORA



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150 WAYS of looking at Canada

POSTCARD NO. 10

QUAILS' GATE, KELOWNA, B.C.

THIS IS THE QUAILS' GATE WINERY, IN THE MIDST OF THE OKANAGAN VALLEY. THIS AREA IS SO TRANQUIL AND BEAUTIFUL. I HAD MANY RELAXING VACATIONS THERE ENJOYING THE COMPANY OF WONDERFUL FRIENDS AND GOOD WINE! **ERIC HAMILTON**

SEND US YOUR POSTCARD Each day until July 1, Metro will feature one reader's postcard in our editions across the country, on Metronews.ca and our 150postcards Instagram page. You can get involved by sending us a photo of your favourite place in Canada along with 25 to 50 words about why that place is special to you. You can email us at **scene@metronews.ca** or post to Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag **#150postcards.**

REFUGEES

Woman pressures feds over family

Jen Taplin
For Metro | Halifax

Their first meeting should have been a joyous occasion at the airport. Instead it happened in a small one-bedroom apartment in Jordan.

Frustrated at delays and eager to meet the sponsored Syrian refugee family, Stephanie Gillis took matters into her own hands and visited them in Jordan last month.

Gillis and her colleagues at Southwest Properties contributed about $25,000 to sponsor a family. They were paired with a family in Dec. 2015 and were told they would arrive by February 2016. They're still waiting.

So in January Gillis packed her bags and headed to Israel, hoping to pop over to Jordan to see the family. A connection through a friend on Facebook helped her navigate the streets and track them down.

The dad, Mouad Almasalma, thought someone was coming to his door to tell him his application was rejected.

"I got out of the car and the look on his face, it was amazing, it was so cool," she said.

Court won't bring back Muslim ban

POLITICS

But it's not over; Appeal to Supreme Court is likely

> See you in court, the security of our nation is at stake.
> U.S. President Donald Trump

> Mr. President, we just saw you in court, and we beat you.
> Washington Gov. Jay Inslee

A federal appeals court refused Thursday to reinstate President Donald Trump's ban on travellers from seven predominantly Muslim nations, unanimously rejecting the administration's claim of presidential authority and questioning its motives.

The panel of three judges from the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals declined to block a lower-court ruling that suspended the ban and allowed previously barred travellers to enter the U.S.

The court battle is far from over. The lower court still must debate the merits of the ban, and an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court seems likely. That could put the decision in the hands of a divided court that has a vacancy. Trump's nominee, Neil Gorsuch, could not be confirmed in time to take part in any consideration of the ban.

Moments after the ruling was released, Trump tweeted, "SEE YOU IN COURT," adding that "THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION IS AT STAKE!"

In response, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat who leads one of the states that challenged the ban, said: "Mr. President, we just saw you in court, and we beat you."

The appeals panel said the government presented no evidence to explain the urgent need for the executive order to take effect immediately. The judges noted compelling public interests on both sides.

"On the one hand, the public has a powerful interest in national security and in the ability of an elected president to enact policies. And on the other, the public also has an interest in free flow of travel, in avoiding separation of families, and in freedom from discrimination."

The court rejected the administration's claim that it did not have the authority to review the president's executive order.

"There is no precedent to support this claimed unreviewability, which runs contrary to the fundamental structure of our constitutional democracy," the court said.

While they did not rule on the merits of the states' argument that the travel ban was intended to target Muslims, the judges rejected the government's claim that the court should not consider statements by Trump or his advisers about wishing to enact such a ban. Considering those remarks, the judges said, falls within well-established legal precedent.

The Justice Department said that it was "reviewing the decision and considering its options." It was the first day for new Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who was sworn in at the White House Thursday.

The ban temporarily suspended the nation's refugee program and immigration from countries that have raised terrorism concerns. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Speculation about Palin as ambassador

Sarah Palin has been governor of Alaska, candidate for vice-president of the United States and the butt of countless jokes. Now is she about to become the American ambassador to Canada?

On Wednesday, White House press secretary Sean Spicer fuelled speculation that Palin is Ottawa-bound when he declined on Wednesday to comment on whether she is being considered as ambassador to Ottawa.

"With respect to the ambassador, we have no additional ambassador nominations or announcements to make on that front," Spicer told reporters when asked specifically about rumours that Palin was under consideration for the Canadian post. That was enough to cause Twitter to blow up.

"Sarah Palin as ambassador?" New Democrat MP Charlie Angus tweeted. "Well that would show how little Steve Bannon and his pal @realDonaldTrump think of Canada." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

U.S. President Donald Trump and Canadian PM Justin Trudeau will meet Monday. THE CANADIAN PRESS & THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Trump and Trudeau to meet for first time

President Donald Trump will receive Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the White House on Monday — their first official meeting after weeks of back-and-forth about setting a tangible agenda beyond pleasantries and first-encounter photo ops.

Several people familiar with the planning said uncertainty about the date lingered for a reason: the Canadian side wanted specific results, while the American administration is still busy getting its cabinet confirmed.

The scheduling drama was further fuelled by a spectacular public rift between Trump and the president of Mexico last month, scrubbing plans for a potential trilateral meeting of the continent's Three Amigos.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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They just want your money

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
From the U.S.

It's clear now — The already-rich Trumps just want to get richer.

I love shoes. Many times shopping at Hudson's Bay, I've picked up a pair that looked as if it could be something I'd want to wear, if it weren't for some hint of cheapness, the air of a knockoff, the feeling that the shoe was saying to me: "I am exactly your style," but I could sense a lie. Once you got closer, it wasn't quite as elegant. The fabric a tad tacky. The stitching imprecise. In general: less fabulous, more fake. And it was always Ivanka Trump (™).

It's not until numerous people posted images of bland Ivanka Trump wrap dresses on Facebook this week — supporting Nordstrom's claim that it recently dropped her line of women's wear because it wasn't selling well — that I remembered about the shoes. I realized what a perfect metaphor they were for Ivanka herself: now that we've had a closer look, we can spot the fake.

The full extent to which she's misrepresented the women-friendly policies of her business, argued that her privileged childhood was in fact an obstacle she overcame in order to become rich, and used her newfound political power to hawk her own products is detailed elsewhere.

Ivanka and Melania Trump speak during the presidential inaugural parade. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

But this week, we saw the curtain fall away completely. First, Trump slammed Nordstrom on Twitter. Then Kellyanne Conway, Trump's key advisor, shifted gears from presidential spokesperson to president's daughter's lifestyle brand endorser.

"Go buy Ivanka's stuff," she told the American people on Thursday. "I'm just going to give a free commercial here: Go buy it today, everybody."

From the beginning, the idea that the Trump family would not try to profit directly from the presidency was as foolish as believing a dog would not try to roll in a pile of s—. But few thought we'd see it expressed so blatantly.

Conway's shopping-channel episode came only days after we learned that Melania Trump was in fact planning on making wads of cash from being first lady, a role she appeared to want nothing to do with.

Court documents filed by her lawyers as part of a libel suit against the Daily Mail newspaper argue that she's lost out on a "unique, once in a lifetime opportunity" to "launch a broad-based commercial brand in multiple product categories, each of which could have garnered multi-million dollar business relationships for a multi-year term during which Plaintiff is one of the most photographed women in the world." In other words: She planned to use her time as first lady to get rich(er).

What's important about these two latest episodes of the Trump-presidency-complex is the shameless nature of these claims to self-enrichment. While liberals sit around worrying about whether they're being too paranoid about Trump, or not paranoid enough, his wife, daughter, political advisor and he himself have dropped pretences all together.

You can leave your ethics and morals to the birds and the bees, America. They want money.

GLOBAL DIGEST

UNITED STATES

Cities hit by biggest snowstorm of the winter

The biggest storm to hit the Northeast U.S. this winter dropped a foot or more of snow along the New York-to-Boston corridor Thursday, turning roads treacherous, grounding flights and giving millions of people weather whiplash a day after temperatures soared into the 10s.

Scores of accidents were reported as drivers confronted blowing snow and slick highways. Schools closed in cities big and small, including New York City, Philadelphia and Boston, and government offices told non-essential workers to stay home.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO

Monarch butterfly numbers drop 27 per cent

The number of monarch butterflies wintering in Mexico dropped by 27 per cent this year, reversing last year's recovery from historically low numbers, according to a study by government and independent experts released Thursday.

The experts say the decline could be due to late winter storms last year that blew down more than 100 acres (40 hectares) of forests where migrating monarch butterflies spend the winter in central Mexico.

Millions of monarchs make the 5,500-kilometre migration from the United States and Canada each year, and they cluster tightly in the pine and fir forests west of Mexico City.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NETHERLANDS

Prosecutors seek 11 years for alleged cyberbully also charged in Canada

Dutch prosecutors on Thursday sought the maximum possible sentence — nearly 11 years — for a man charged with cyberbullying dozens of young girls and gay men and who is also accused in Canada of sexually extorting Amanda Todd, a 15-year-old girl who later killed herself. Prosecutor Annet Kramer urged judges at a court in Amsterdam to sentence the suspect, identified only as Aydin C., to 10 years and eight months in prison, saying he subjected some of his victims to years of emotional abuse.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority

Fairmont Château Laurier
1 Rideau Street
Room: Quebec Suite

metro SCIENCE

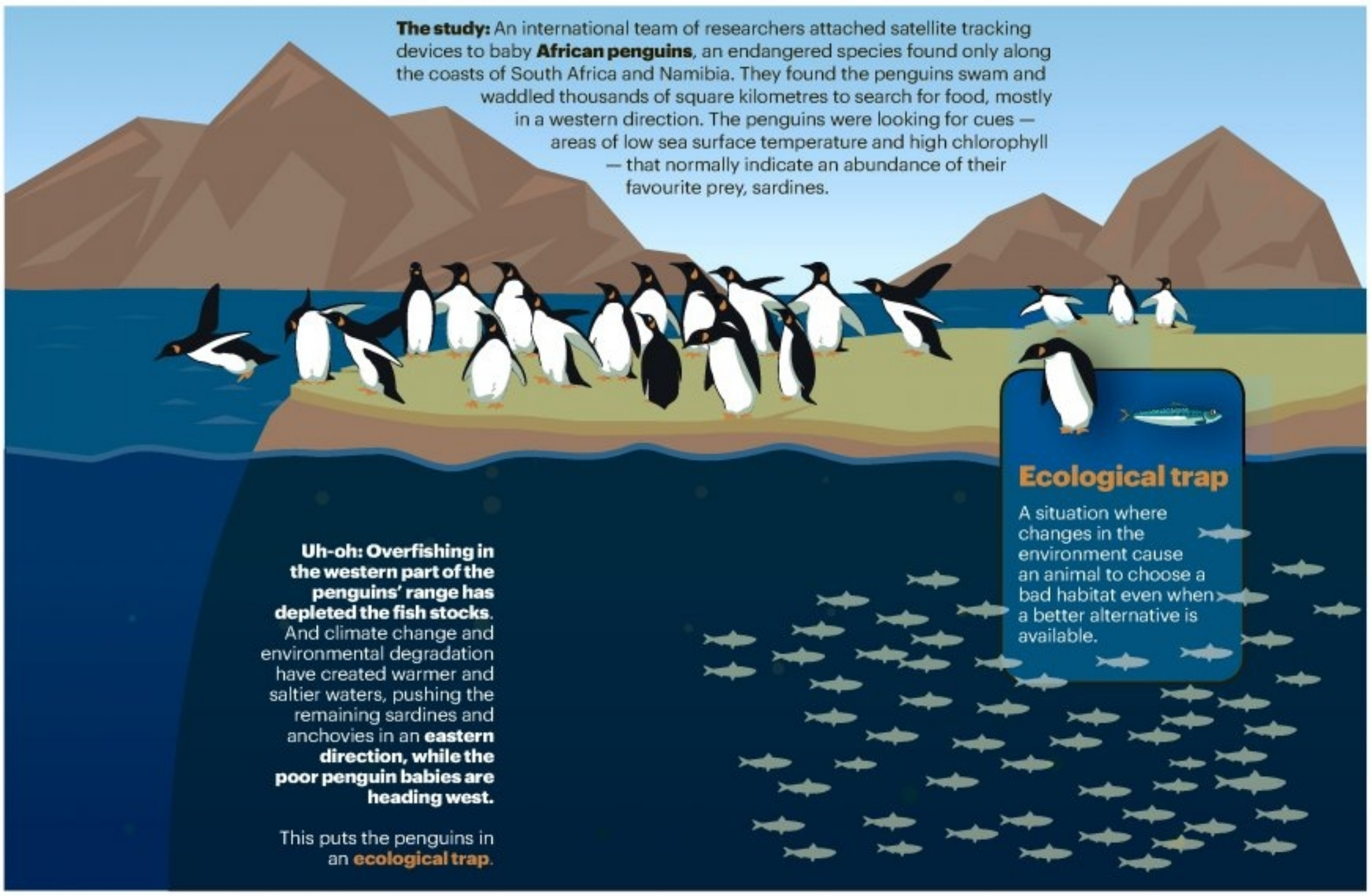
Your essential daily news

From the Department of Duh: Traffic deaths are declining because people are driving less, a new study says

DECODED by Genna Buck and Andrés Plana

DEATH MARCH OF THE PENGUINS

Baby African penguins are in serious trouble. They're toddling off into the sunset looking for food, but heading in the wrong direction. Humans have messed up their habitat, so their favourite snack, sardines, isn't where it's supposed to be. The breeding population in the hardest-hit areas is about half of what it should be. **They're stuck in a trap. Here's why.**


The study: An international team of researchers attached satellite tracking devices to baby **African penguins**, an endangered species found only along the coasts of South Africa and Namibia. They found the penguins swam and waddled thousands of square kilometres to search for food, mostly in a western direction. The penguins were looking for cues — areas of low sea surface temperature and high chlorophyll — that normally indicate an abundance of their favourite prey, sardines.
Uh-oh: Overfishing in the western part of the penguins' range has depleted the fish stocks. And climate change and environmental degradation have created warmer and saltier waters, pushing the remaining sardines and anchovies in an **eastern direction, while the poor penguin babies are heading west.**
This puts the penguins in an **ecological trap**.
Ecological trap
A situation where changes in the environment cause an animal to choose a bad habitat even when a better alternative is available.

CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

A special message for Research Christmas

Merry Research Christmas! The first 2016 census numbers are out! This is bigger than regular Christmas. Experts have been pining for comprehensive data about the Canadian population since the mandatory long-form census was scrapped in 2010. God bless eggheads everywhere!

I know there's a feeling in the air right now that you can't rely on stats or polls, only your own two eyes. But you can rely on Statscan. It's independent. The data were collected with accepted, transparent methods and reviewed by qualified wonks. If there's a problem, it will be corrected. The same can be said for stats in reputable scientific journals. But it can't be said for much of what passes for "statistics."

Nobody uses scientific methods to collect statistics about issues of no scientific interest. Here's an example stat: The average woman has 20 pairs of shoes in her closet. It *sounds* true. But who would fund a study on that? No one, I think. I found the number in a Daily Mail article, but it's originally from an online survey (not a peer-reviewed study) by a random British couponing website, VoucherCodesPro.co.uk.

Even some often-repeated statistics of supreme public interest are untraceable. Case in point: survivors of domestic violence leave their abusive partners an average of seven times before staying away for good.

The statistic is often attributed to the National Domestic Violence Hotline. But on their site, they link to a CNN article that quotes an expert saying it. No study, though. I found one graduate students' paper that repeated the stat, citing a 2005 Body Shop press release. The press release didn't cite a source.

Questioning the stat isn't doubting that domestic violence is a devastating problem. Maybe the number is even higher. (If you know the real number, get in touch!). Meanwhile, my Research New Year's resolution is not to repeat, cite, share or rely on stats from dubious sources.

Science Question?
genna.buck@metronews.ca

FINDINGS
Your week in science

SHIFTING FERTILITY FACTS jobs with a lot of manual labour or anti-social hours such as night shifts may negatively affect women's fertility, a new study says. Women doing these types of work tend to have fewer eggs and fewer mature eggs.

BATTERY UP Imagine: A battery that lasts ten years, storing solar energy in your basement and discharging it to heat your home. And if it bursts? No prob, the solution inside is water-based. Harvard scientists unveiled just such a prototype this week.

SOUND SMART

DEFINITION
Formication is the feeling of ants crawling all over your body. Most often, it's the result of a common **tactile hallucination** (the ants aren't real, the problem is psychological).

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
Mercedes has been scratching all week and is slathering herself in expensive homeopathic cream. The **formication** she's feeling is real, but the problem is in her head.

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by Jason Logan

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Keanu cashing in on charisma

IN FOCUS

Unpredictable Reeves returns as John Wick to confound again

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

This weekend one of the most multipurpose and enduring movie stars of the past thirty years returns to the screen. Kevin Spacey? No. Daniel Day-Lewis? Na'ah. Gary Oldman? Nyet. It's Keanu Reeves.

Wait! Isn't he the guy critics love to hate? That Reelviews said was, "an actor of exceptionally limited scope" just as the Daily Mail called his performance in Constantine an "impersonation of a sleep-walking plank"?

Yes, one in the same. He's The Matrix's Neo, the Ted of Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure and Point Break's Johnny Utah.

This weekend he's the title character in John Wick: Chapter 2, a down-and-dirty noir and follow up to the original 2014 hit.

The actor's latest incarnation represents another reinvention in a career spent keeping audiences guessing. He's gone on existential journeys, wooed Diane Keaton and played a peaceful extraterrestrial ambassador but Wicks is something else again.

The Wick movies are set in an alternative world of assassins where hit men and women are paid in special coins, stay in exclusive hotels — with killer views no doubt — and speak in a strangely formal way.

They see themselves as professionals with a civilized code of conduct… except that there is nothing civilized about the work they do. In the first film Wick was an assassin so tough he didn't bother to take off his gore-soaked shirt when beginning his bloody quest for vengeance.

John Wick, the movies and the character are blunt, über macho instruments, brought to life by Reeves in a performance that cripples the argument Today.com made that he is simply a "reciter of dialogue." First of all there is very little dialogue.

The opening fifteen minutes of the first film is essentially a silent movie kept interesting by Reeves's action hero charisma. Unlike Meryl Streep he can't do accents and he doesn't have the range of some of his former co-stars like Oldman but what he does have is presence.

At his best Keanu understands how to be on screen. Author Bret Easton Ellis said that Reeves "is always hypnotic to watch," and what is a movie star if not someone you can't take your eyes off?

The Wick movies cap a busy and unpredictable time for the actor. After Speed and The Matrix he could have stuck to action films and made a career running jumping and kicking people. Instead he diversified, jumping from romances like Sweet November to crime dramas like The Watcher to The Replacements, a sports comedy.

From studio movies to indies he is unpredictable in his choices, defying expectations. Take his erotic horror thriller Knock Knock for instance. He plays a man held captive in his own home by three female home invaders. It's not a remarkable movie — I called it "deeply unpleasant" in my review — but what makes it interesting is Keanu's character's complete inability to protect himself. Most A-listers wouldn't allow themselves to be portrayed as such easy prey but Keanu relishes the chance to upend our view of him.

For sure Reeves has made some bad movies and even been bad in some movies but that sometimes happens when actors don't play by the rules.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Fifty Shades Darker ★
The Lego Batman Movie ★★★
John Wick: Chapter 2 ★★★★
Paterson ★★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

Keanu Reeves returns as the title character in John Wick: Chapter 2. GETTY IMAGES

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Michael Cera teams up with former Arrested Development co-star Will Arnett in The Lego Batman Movie; a fresh take on the DC franchise. HANDOUT

Cera on voicing a comedic sidekick

INTERVIEW

Canadian actor lends his vocals to a more earnest Robin

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

You can take the boy out of Canada but you can't take Canada out of the boy. When I meet with Brampton, Ont.-born Michael Cera to chat about his new project, The Lego Batman Movie, he's having lunch, eating a Waldorf salad.

The 28-year-old began his career in Canada with a Tim Hortons summer camp commercial before decamping to the United States, finding fame with Arrested Development and a string of successful movies like Superbad and Juno, but has retained his disarming Canadian politeness.

I walk in, he jumps up, "Do you want anything? Cheese? A coffee? How are you doing?"

Declining the snacks and coffee I ask him about the two-year process of recording vocal tracks to play half of the Dynamic Duo, Batman's ward Dick Grayson, a.k.a. Robin.

"You are only focussed on your voice," he says on the difference between live action and animation. "That gives you a certain amount of freedom to experiment in ways that you wouldn't normally. And there's nobody around. All self-consciousness that exists on a set where there is all this infrastructure put in place to set the camera up and point it at you and then you have to deliver. All that pressure is not there when you're in the studio. They just press record. They're not even recording on tape, it's digital. You just go and experiment and fail as many times as you want.

"As far as improvisation goes, it was very loose on this. The script is good and he jokes at work and everything ... you feel encouraged and take chances."

The Lego Batman Movie is part parody, part homage to the Batman origin story. When we meet Batman, played by Cera's former Arrested Development co-star Will Arnett, he may have outlived his usefulness as Gotham's main do-gooder. What does a Caped Crusader do when the city no longer needs a vigilante crime fighter? Alfred Pennyworth, the superhero's loyal butler and legal guardian suggests, "It's time to face your greatest fear, being part of a family again." Enter Dick Grayson.

"There's a great foundation there," Cera says about Batman's backstory. "I think the reason Batman keeps getting rehashed is because it is a great core story with this great character and the world around him. There is a lot to play off of in that."

It sounds heavy, but this isn't Christopher Nolan's long dark night of the superhero soul. "The best thing I can say about the tone is that it is a little like Chuck Jones," Cera says. "Joke. Joke. Joke. It has that kind of rhythm."

Cera's willingness to be irreverent with the Batman mythology isn't a lapse of manners — he is Canadian after all — it's because, "I'm not an overly enthusiastic Batman fan. I didn't grow up with the comics. Comics just didn't land with me. I was really into cartoons and Nintendo. That was where my head was at. I loved watching the Batman movies but I don't live and breathe it for some reason."

Do you want anything? Cheese? A coffee? How are you doing?

Michael Cera, proving Canadian politeness is a lasting trait

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DAY FOR LOVE

Time together can make up for all that time spent apart

Tanya Enberg

When Valentine's Day traditions start feeling a little worn out, skip the card and flowers in exchange for something less conventional.

Doing so could be your best bet for success this Feb. 14.

According to Toronto psychotherapist Nicole McCance, what many people really want could surprise you.

"There's a lot of pressure, especially on men, to buy something, but most of my couples tell me that life is so busy and what they are really craving is an experience," says McCance.

"They want the gift of time."

To make the day special, while boosting connectedness and intimacy in your relationship, it helps to know how your partner best receives the message of love, says McCance referring to Dr. Gary Chapman's Five Love Languages, which identifies the fundamental ways in which people feel nurtured in relationships.

For some, a gift does the trick, while for others, receiving a new pair of earrings could be a total bust, depending on the love language they speak.

Plan a day out doing something different together. You'll enjoy time one on one and have the memories go with it. ISTOCK

According to Chapman, some desire affirmation (being told I love you or given a compliment, for example), whereas others appreciate acts of service (such as cooking, taking care of the laundry, or washing the dishes); physical touch, or the aforementioned gift of quality time, the latter of which is characterized by focusing your attention on each other and not, say, the television.

Thoughtful gestures, however small, can pack a really big punch.

"Life gets so crazy we begin to associate our partner with stress," explains McCance, adding relationships risk losing the lustre amid daily demands, such as "who's doing pick-up and drop-off (of the kids)."

To create an enriching occasion tailor-made to your loved one, consider what they complain about, she suggests.

"For instance, if she says you're never home or you never touch me, do the opposite. Once the kids are in bed, put on some romantic music and give her a sensual massage. And that's free. Make a homemade greeting card letting her know how special she is. Be curious, be complimentary. This is someone you share your life with. Remember how curious you used to be about them?"

Also, a shared experience promotes closeness and offers multiple rewards.

"You have the anticipation of it coming, then you enjoy the day, and then you have the memory of it," says McCance.

IDEAS

1. Travel: Whether single or paired up, day trips, overnight stays, or even exploring a neighbourhood in your own city can be a fun adventure that shakes up a daily routine.
2. Volunteer: Choose an organization dear to your heart and give it the gift of time.
3. Get outdoors: Go sledding or ice skating and then warm up with cups of hot cocoa.
4. Play host: Organize a potluck gathering for family and friends.
5. Be creative: Make a DIY gift, such as a scrapbook or mixed CD, or pen a handwritten love letter.
6. Make a grand gesture: Plan a nostalgic outing to the place you first met or had your first date.
7. Get clean: Hire a house cleaner to help scrub away the to-do list.
8. Perfect Pillow talk: After letting your sweetheart enjoy a nice long sleep in, surprise them with breakfast in bed.
9. Heat up the kitchen: Try cooking a new recipe or baking something sweet together.
10. Celebrate all love: Go for a walk with a good friend, or reach out to someone you know is struggling.

Gadgets that bring you closer together

Does your love life need a bit of a boost? While it might be the last thing you had in mind, the latest tech might just be what the (love) doctor ordered.

In fact, the right gadgets may just add some techcitement to your relationship, to help rekindle the flame between you and your partner.

Before you pooh-pooh the proposition, consider the following examples of how a techy gift might do the trick this Valentine's Day.

Headphone splitter

Consider it a romantic way to split up: the Belkin Headphone Splitter ($26, Amazon.ca) lets two users listen to the same songs at the same time.

Simply plug this black or white splitter into your phone, tablet or laptop — perhaps while lying together on the couch or beach or while taking a stroll around the neighbourhood — and then two sets of headphones or earbuds can be inserted into the twin 3.5mm headphone jacks.

SONY ALPHA A5000 CAMERA

Heated foot spa

It's the next best thing to a visit at the spa — and you don't have to leave your home. As the name suggests, Homedic's Bubble Spa Pro Footbath with Heat Boost Power ($99.99, Bed Bath & Beyond) gives your significant other a warm, massaging bath for her tired feet.

The clever toe-touch control means he can keep his hands in his robe pocket, while sitting back and enjoying being pampered. A built-in carry handle lets her easily transport it around the home before and after her few moments of heavenly, bubbly bliss. Heck, why not buy two and be spoiled at the same time, side by side, while sipping some vino?

GELASKINS SMARTPHONE CASES

BELKIN HEADPHONE SPLITTER

Stellar camera

Give the gift of captured memories with a premium camera — but without the premium price.

The Sony Alpha A5000 mirrorless camera with E PZ 16-50mm zoom lens ($529.99, Best Buy) delivers dSLR quality in a compact form factor, plus this 20.1-megapixel camera features integrated Wi-Fi connectivity to instantly share your images with the world, via a nearby smartphone.

Decorative skins, cases

Decorate your better half's smartphone, tablet, e-reader or laptop with hundreds of different designs to personalize their gear. Gelaskins (from $16, gelaskins.com) are high-quality skins that affix to your favourite digital devices, to give them some unique flare.

You can also download free, matching wallpaper to display behind the icons. There are also fitted Gelaskins smartphone cases (from $20, gelaskins.com). A percentage of each sale goes to the artist, plus you can upload your own design to create a custom, one-of-a-kind skin, such as a family photo, a couples' portrait, or while not romantic, a favourite sports team's logo.

MARC SALTZMAN

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Ecuador is top real estate investment for Canadians

Affordable oceanfront properties selling out fast

Pleasant year-round temperatures without the threat of hurricanes. A cost of living that's three times lower than Canada's. Affordable health care. It's no wonder Canadians are buying real estate in Ecuador.

Purchasing property here is also easy and affordable compared to other sun destinations. "Prices reflect what was available in Costa Rica 15 years ago but in a country where first-rate and modern infrastructure is already in place," says Gordon Poole, vice president of HolaEcuador, a Canadian company developing properties in the South American country. HolaEcuador is in its seventh year helping Canadians acquire property on Ecuador's Pacific Coast for financial investment and retirement. "Currently, we're working on a beautiful 130-acre oceanfront property located 60 kilometres south of Manta, the regional capital. Of the 1,700 lots in the development, only about 400 are still available for purchase," says Poole.

Lots start at just $23,113 (U.S.), and a two-bedroom, one-bathroom home starts at $72,345 (U.S.). "The country is among the safest in Latin America, and the currency is the U.S. dollar, which is very reassuring for investors," Poole adds. "With HolaEcuador, buyers have the benefit of signing a Canadian contract with a Canadian company and they are assured that they will own their deed outright." The HolaEcuador team helps investors choose their lot, guides them through construction, and helps with extras like relocation and immigration in a country with accessible residency status.

The company's latest development currently has over 200 completed homes, with more construction underway. "A beautiful outdoor sports facility is now operational, businesses are beginning to set up shop and the parks are simply breathtaking," says Poole. "A few years from now, this little slice of heaven will be the envy of investors who didn't seize the opportunity."

Ecuador is ranked among the world's best real-estate investments. CONTRIBUTED

Move to paradise

HolaEcuador is hosting free info seminars across Canada in February. Representatives from the HolaEcuador team will discuss the development, the benefits of owning property in Ecuador and financial planning for a purchase. For more information and to register for a seminar, visit holaecuador.ca or call (613) 518-1973.

Orleans, Ont. *– Saturday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m. Quality Inn Orleans, 3363 St. Joseph Blvd.*

New Westminster, B.C. *– Saturday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m., Inn at the Quay, 900 Quayside Dr.*

Vancouver, B.C. *– Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m., Best Western plus Chateau Granville, 1100 Granville St.*

Calgary, Alta. *– Saturday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m., Aloft Calgary University, 2359 Banff Trail NW*

Edmonton, Alta. *– Saturday, March 4, 10 a.m., Four Points Gateway, 10010 12 Ave. SW*

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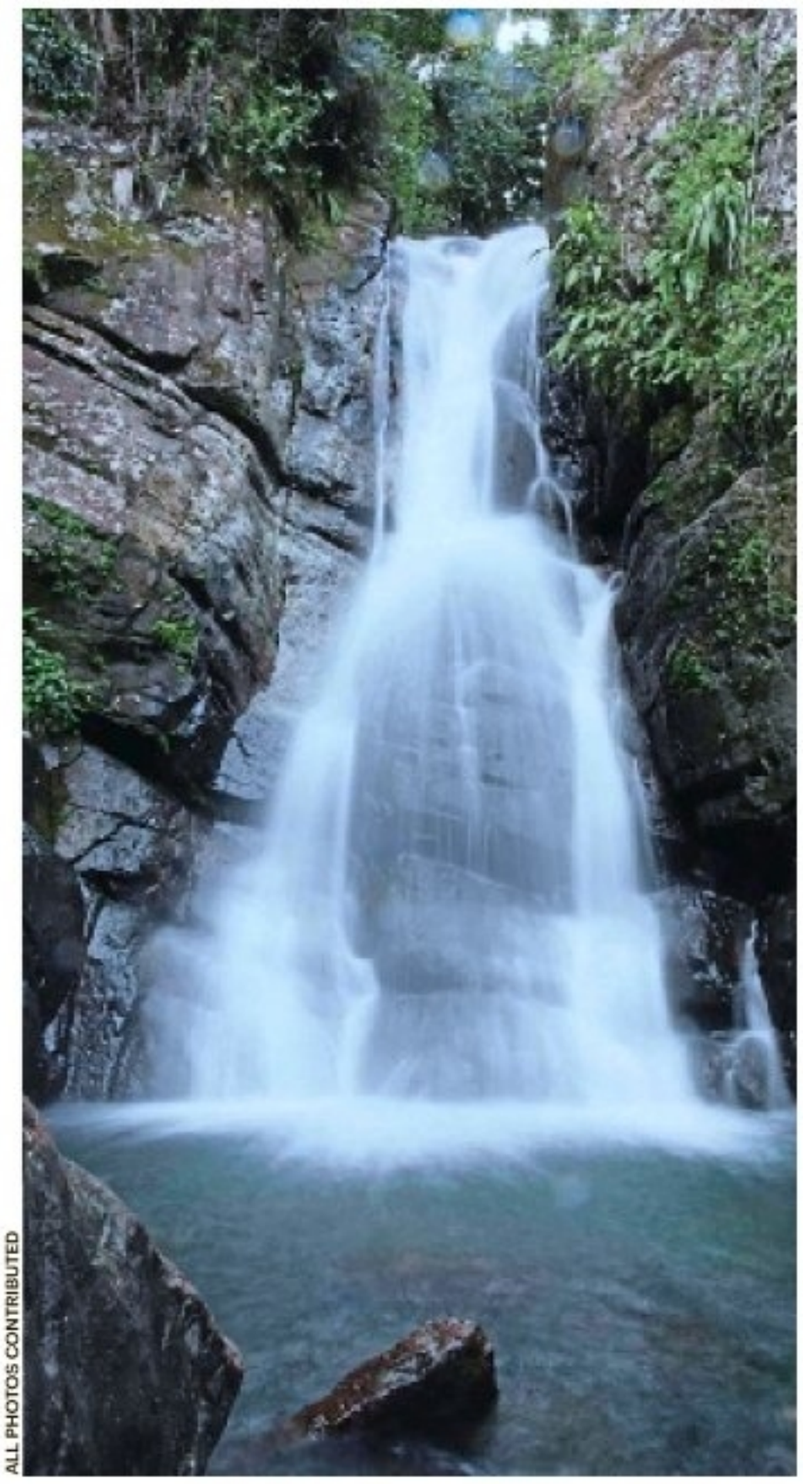
Iris Apfel to host trans-atlantic fashion-themed cruise on the Queen Mary 2

Eco-tours on the Island of Enchantment

For those seeking more than your typical sand and surf getaway, Puerto Rico provides adventure. Yes, it has beautiful beaches and that golden Caribbean sunshine, but treks through lush rainforests and bioluminescence tours will take your usual island vacation up a notch. KAREN KWAN/FOR METRO



ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Scale to new heights

Get your feet wet, literally. For an immersive experience, hook up with Ecoquest Adventures and leave your favourite kicks in your hotel room, because this is no walk in the (rainforest) park.

At times you'll be more than knee deep in the Turabo River as you make your way up a mountain in the Carite state forest. And the descent is no letdown: it's one exhilarating rappel — with safety harness on, of course — down a waterfall, immediately followed by five ziplines that bring you back to the base.

There you're welcomed back with a comforting home-cooked lunch prepared by the Figueroa family, who've resided here since before the forest became a reserve.

Nighttime adventure

A quiet paddle on a kayak through a mangrove in inky black darkness, cocooned by branches overhead. This start to the bioluminescent bay tour is enough to make you feel at one with nature. Soon enough, you enter Laguna Grande, and here is where — with a sweep of your hand into the warm water — you're rewarded with sparkles of light. This magical fairy dust, it's thanks to the heavy concentration of plankton in the bay, and this bay in Puerto Rico's Fajardo region is one of the rare places in the world you can have this enlightening experience.

Tip: For the best views, aim to book your excursion on a night without moonlight and avoid giong out after a heavy rainfall as both impact how much of a glittery glow you can see.

Explore a neighbouring island

For a crystal clear water and virtually untouched beaches, book a boat tour to take you to Culebra or Culebrita.

Tip: If you're motion sickness-prone, take your meds beforehand as strong waves will rock the boat along the way.

For a change from the beach scene, get your tropical rainforest fill at El Yunque, one of the oldest reserves in the Western Hemisphere, dating back to 1876. Its name is derived from the word yuquiye, which stands for white lands, given the forest of clouds just above the peaks. More than 1.5 million people visit this lush rainforest annually so you'll be rubbing elbows with plenty of fellow turistas.

The company is worth it for the chance to take in 240 native tree species (but thankfully no dangerous animals, snakes or insects), climb the 98 steps up Yokahu Tower to an elevation of 1,575 feet for the view and get a refreshing cool-down from by the mist of Juan Diego waterfall.

Four Seasons Toronto is organizing the global expedition. TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LIFESTYLES

Global culinary tour for the 1 per cent

Most travellers have a limited budget for food, hotels and souvenirs and will do their best to stick with it. And then there are those with the deepest of deep pockets.

It's clearly the latter that Toronto-based Four Seasons has in mind with its latest extravagant offering: a 19-day culinary-themed jaunt across Asia and Europe with opportunities to nosh in Michelin-starred restaurants, discover street food and go on chef-led market tours.

Price tag: $135,000 US per person. That's double occupancy. If you're hoofing it on your own you'll have to cough up the $12,000 single supplement.

Destinations on the itinerary include Seoul (the starting point), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Chiang Mai, Mumbai, Florence, Lisbon, Copenhagen and Paris.

An elephant trek in northern Thailand, a private viewing of Michelangelo's David in Florence and a foraging experience in Denmark are also part of the package.

Mingling with the commoners in the skies is not an issue. Air travel is aboard the Four Seasons private jet and accommodations are at the chain's luxurious hotels and resorts.

$135,000

Cost in USD, per person (add another $12,000 for single occupancy), to book your spot on a 19-day worldwide tour for foodies organized by Four Seasons Toronto.

Four Seasons, which partnered with Copenhagen restaurant Noma and co-owner Rene Redzepi to develop the May 27 to June 14 trip, says it is also tossing in a special gift: complimentary business-class airfare from each guests' home city to Seoul and back from Paris, up to $5,000 US per person.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro SPORTS

Bucks breakout forward Jabari Parker suffered a season-ending left knee injury for the second time in three years, the team said Thursday

Oak stands pat on spat

NBA

Former Knick denies doing anything to force ejection

Charles Oakley maintains he did nothing wrong before he was surrounded by Madison Square Garden security officials.

Something has happened, though, to turn him from popular player to persona non grata within his former franchise.

Oakley Thursday blamed his strained relationship with the New York Knicks and owner James Dolan for the altercation that led to his ejection and arrest from the Knicks' 119-115 loss to the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday.

I don't want to keep going to the Garden if all this is going to keep happening.
Charles Oakley

Oakley said during an ESPN Radio interview that he had been in his seat for just a few minutes when he was surrounded by security, denying that they approached him after he shouted at Dolan.

"Now I'm four rows from this guy, so I'm going to walk in this place and just start hollering, 'James Dolan! James Dolan!' I mean, that's embarrassing, man. I did not do none of that," Oakley said. "I didn't know the man was sitting in front of me at first until they walked over there."

Oakley, who is also a former Toronto Raptor, said he has been told that Dolan must be informed by security whenever he is in the arena, and that MSG staff follows him when he leaves his seat to go the bathroom.

But the Knicks said he was causing trouble Wednesday even before security reached his seat.

"There are dozens of security staff, employees and NYPD that witnessed Oakley's abusive behaviour," the team said in a statement. "It started when he entered the building and continued until he was arrested and left the building. Every single statement we have received is consistent in describing his actions. Everything he said since the incident is pure fiction."

Oakley was charged with three counts of misdemeanour assault and one count of criminal trespass. He is accused of striking one security guard in the face with a closed fist, and when two other people tried to intervene, both were pushed and received cuts.

He is due back in court April 11. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOLF WICKED RAIN WREAKS HAVOC AT PEBBLE BEACH
Jordan Spieth hits a shot from the bunker on the 12th hole during the first round of the Pebble Beach Pro-Am on Thursday in Pebble Beach, Calif. The PGA Tour moved up tee times by an hour to try to beat the rain storms, but it wasn't enough. Already saturated, the greens on all three courses began holding enough water that play had to be suspended. Seung-Yul Noh, Joel Dahmen and Rick Lamb each shot a 4-under 68 at Spyglass Hill to share the lead, and more importantly, they were among the 75 players who finished. Spieth was at 3-under par with two holes to play on the Shore Course at Monterey Peninsula. JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

2018 WINTER OLYMPICS

Canada forecasted to win 29 medals

An analytics company predicts a big Winter Olympics for Norway and says Canada will finish fourth in total medals won next year in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

The U.S.-based sports and entertainment data company Gracenote has Norway topping its virtual medal table with a whopping 40 medals, including 15 gold, which would both be a Winter Games records.

The current highs are Canada's 14 gold and the 37 medals won by the United States in 2010 in Vancouver and Whistler, B.C.

Canada is projected to collect 29 medals — nine gold, nine silver and 11 bronze — behind Germany with 34 and the U.S. at 32 in Pyeongchang.

France is pegged to post its best performance, tying the U.S. for gold with 10 and Russia at 22 medals.

The 2018 Winter Olympics open Feb. 9 and close 16 days later.

With a year to go, The Canadian Press forecasts 28 medals for the Canadian team (eight gold, 10 silver, 10 bronze).

Those who run Canadian sport are waiting until after world championships conclude to declare the country's goal for Pyeongchang.

240
The COC expects to send a team of approximately 240 athletes to Pyeongchang.

Finishing first in total medals won was the target in both 2010 and 2014, when Canada won 26 medals for third and 25 for fourth, respectively.

Canada ranks third among countries in gold medals (31) and total medals (116) so far this winter sport World Cup season behind Germany (64, 163) and the United States (45, 126).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Canada caps perfect round robin in Fed Cup play

Canada defeated Paraguay 3-0 on Thursday to close out round-robin play at the Fed Cup Americas Zone Group I event with a 3-0 record.

Canada will face the winner of Pool B in Saturday's final with a berth in the World Group II playoffs in April on the line. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Riders coach denies working out Manziel

Saskatchewan Roughriders head coach Chris Jones has denied a report that the Saskatchewan Roughriders illegally worked out quarterback Johnny Manziel.

The former Heisman Trophy winner remains on the negotiation list of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, which gives them CFL exclusivity to him. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Wholesome Salmon Cakes

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

End your week on a light note with these simple, elegant salmon cakes.

Ready in 50 minutes
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 6

Ingredients
- 2 large Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 leek, washed well, sliced in half and thinly sliced
- 2 5 oz tins salmon, drained
- 2 tbsp fresh dill, chopped fine
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise

Directions

1. Simmer potatoes until tender in boiling water. Drain and mash. It will make about 2 cups of mashed potatoes. Allow to cool slightly.

2. Gently combine salmon, potatoes, leeks and dill. Blend in mayonnaise and a pinch of salt and pepper.

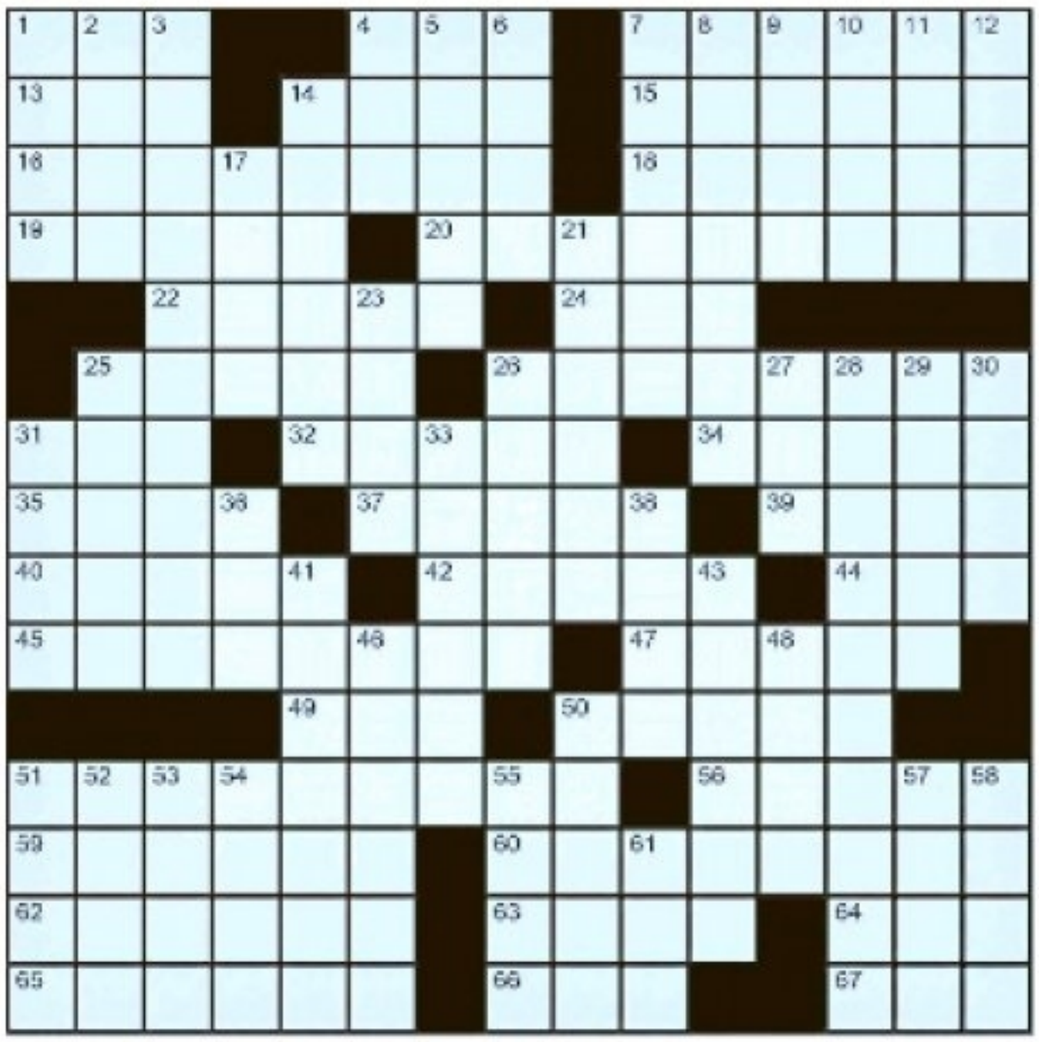
3. Form into about 12 patties — about 2 1/2 inches across and maybe 1/2 inch thick and place on a plate. Cover and refrigerate for at least an hour.

4. Heat some vegetable oil until hot but not smoking. Fry the cakes — don't over crowd the pan, you'll have a hard time flipping them — for about five minutes a side.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Li'l banned pollutant
4. In-the-lab letters in lunch
7. Sacred songs
13. Leftover of 'Liq' still in the tavern bottle?
14. Bloke
15. Down-_-_ (Worn out)
16. Hockey defensive zone marker: 2 wds.
18. One of the icons in Madonna's "Vogue"
19. Manitoba town northeast of Winnipeg, _ _ Bonnet
20. Stylish bit of footwear: 2 wds.
22. Poetically forever
24. "13 _ Madeleine" (1947) starring James Cagney
25. He defeated Goliath
26. Country star Glen
31. Filmdom's Gretchen
32. Pacific island republic
34. Smooth transition
35. Jean Valjean portrayer Mr. Wilkinson
37. Hidden hoard
39. Britney Spears' sister, Jamie _
40. Sugar's pal in coffee
42. Remove the hem's stitches
44. 15th PM's monogram
45. Salad dressing ingredient ...en francais
47. Whitewater rides
49. _ Tin Tin
50. "Howdy!"
51. Home team chant at an ACC hockey game!: 3 wds.
56. Particular pastel
59. Variantly gained knowledge
60. Ontario folk festival where Joni Mitchell has famously played
62. Encrypted: 2 wds.
63. Street sort, shortly
64. Vancouver-born actor Mr. Bellows
65. Intelligence†agency of Israel
66. Compass dir.
67. Tasty tuber type

DOWN
1. Periodical or magazine, e.g.
2. Pop
3. Bryan Adams' longtime manager: 2 wds.
4. F-J link
5. NB's Grand _ Island
6. Frank
7. Invented-in-Canada baby cereal
8. Meryl's of multi-Oscars
9. Herman Melville's captain
10. Fallon's predecessor
11. Beatles: "Love _ _"
12. Schedule opening
14. Open the information loop: 2 wds.
17. 1999 Matthew McConaughey movie
21. Bluegrass singer Alison
23. Nutritional suggested amts.
25. "...see my red _ _ must have it painted black." - The Rolling Stones
26. Construction lifter
27. Barbara _ Geddes, "Dallas" actress
28. Study of King Tut, Pyramids, Hieroglyphics, etc.
29. Quebec City 'moons'
30. Loaned
31. Gladiator's 1205
33. On-the-road reversals
36. Goat's bleat
38. In this spot
41. Cynthia's "Sex and the City" character
43. For whom King Edward abdicated in 1936
46. Talented
48. Acrobat's feat
50. Mother Nature's wintertime 'coats'
51. Flicker of light, briefly
52. Vintner's prefix
53. Resins in varnishes
54. Ancient Greece's love god
55. Pickup trucks, e.g.
57. _ Minor
58. Tranquil
61. Food Network chef Ms. Drummond

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
The full moon today might create problems with kids or romantic partners. Be careful about going overboard or overreacting to things. Keep it cool.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Today you feel pulled between the demands of home and family versus the demands of your job, career and public reputation. You can't please everyone.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Because of the full moon energy today, this is a mildly accident-prone day for your sign. Therefore, slow down and take it easy.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Something to do with shared property, taxes or debt might come to a head today due to the full moon energy. Go slowly in everything you do.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Today the only full moon all year in your sign is taking place. This can make relationships with partners and close friends too emotional and testy.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Difficulties at work or with co-workers might arise today because of the full moon. Just be calm, tolerant and easygoing with everyone.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Social events, romantic relationships, playful activities with children and sports events are all subject to the explosive full moon energy today. Don't get carried away.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Do what you can to keep the peace at home, because today's full moon might stir up things within the family or where you live. Avoid arguments with authority figures, especially Mom.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is a mildly accident-prone day for you because of the full moon. Take time to notice everything around you.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Today's full moon can affect your finances in some way. Therefore, double-check everything you do. Don't give the farm away.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today the only full moon opposite your sign all year is taking place. This will put some stress on your relationships with partners and close friends, which means you have to be tolerant and patient.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Difficulties with co-workers might arise today because of the full moon. This is mild and temporary. Just go with the flow.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	2		3		1		5	
		5	9		8	1		
8	4						2	7
				8				
9	7						4	6
		7	5		2	6		
	5		6		4		3	

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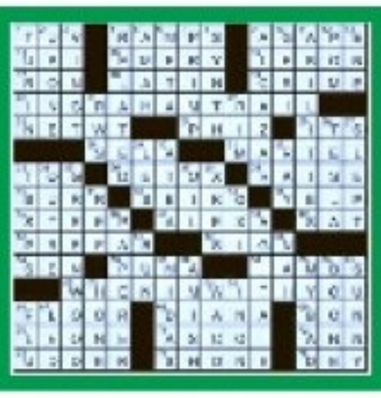
YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



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9	6	5	2	1	3	4	7	8
2	3	8	7	4	1	5	6	9
7	5	4	9	2	6	1	8	3
6	9	1	5	3	8	2	4	7

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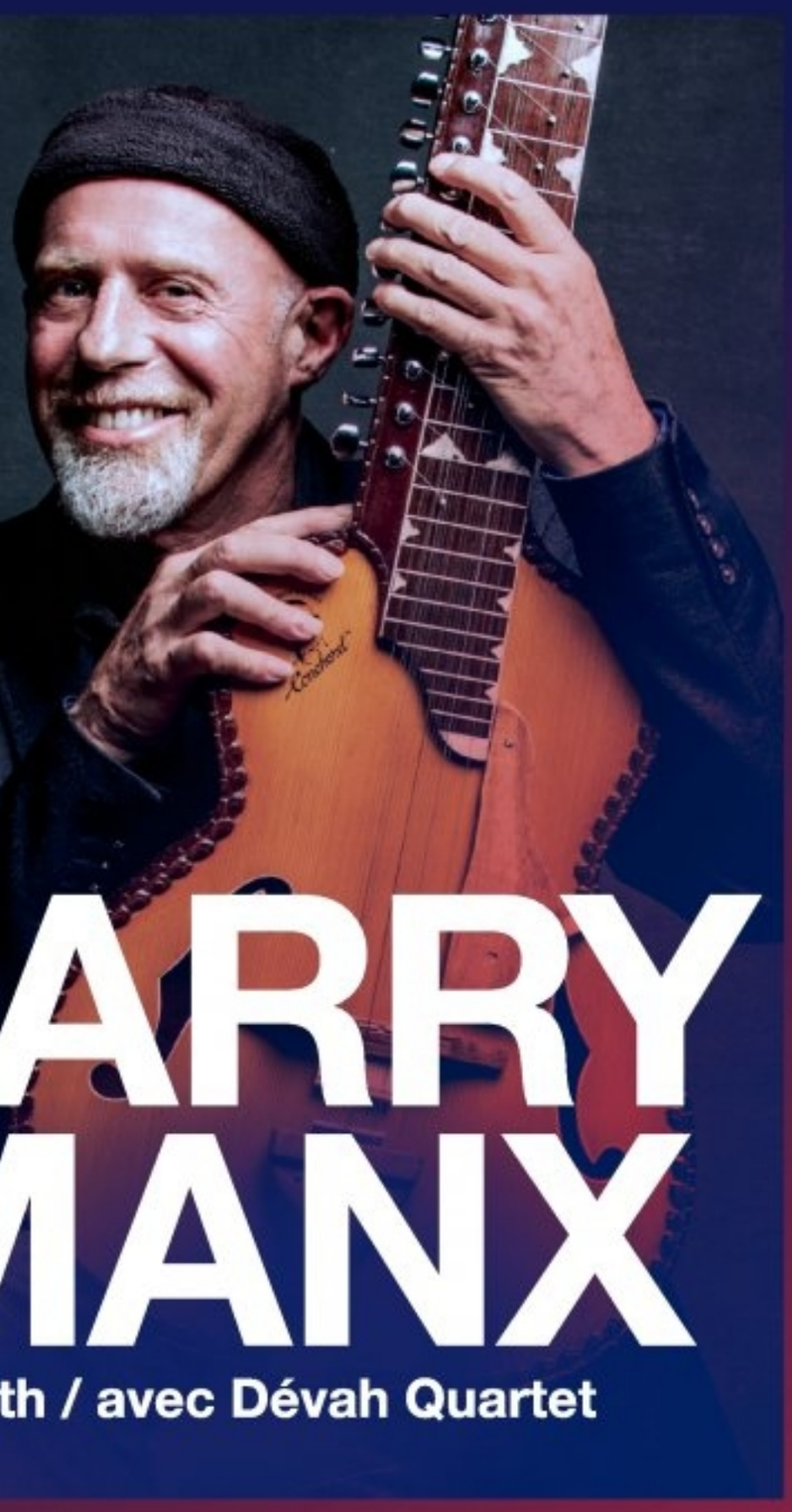

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